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**NATIONAL EDUCATION GOALS PANEL RECOMMENDS THAT GOALS  
BE RENAMED "AMERICA'S EDUCATION GOALS" AND CONTINUE  
BEYOND YEAR 2000**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) With unanimous support among all members present, the National Education Goals Panel (NEGP) on Saturday passed a resolution calling for the renaming of the National Education Goals as "America's Education Goals," and for continuing the efforts to meet them beyond the year 2000.

The resolution was discussed and developed in conjunction with the NEGP's February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, during which Kentucky Governor Paul E. Patton formally became the new Chair. Governor Patton succeeded West Virginia Governor Cecil H. Underwood.

The resolution, which will be submitted to Congress, also calls for renaming of the Panel as America's Education Goals Panel (AEGP). It recommends that the Panel maintain its current membership configuration, as well as the mission spelled out in the "Educate America Act" legislation.

Created following the historic 1989 educational summit of President George Bush and all the nation's governors, the National Education Goals were designed as ambitious targets for the nation and the states to achieve "By the Year 2000." While notable progress has been made in many areas, the goals have not been met. Based on substantial bi-partisan lawmaker support of the Goals, and support from educators, business leaders, and the general public, NEGP members approved the resolution to continue the Goals and the Panel.

The resolution cites the role of the Goals in advancing standards-based education reform and providing a forum for bipartisan consensus in key educational areas, including early childhood readiness-to-learn, student achievement, teacher preparation and others.

"The decision about where we go from here depends a lot on how far we've come," said North Carolina Governor and past NEGP Chair Jim Hunt. "Have these Goals given us worthwhile targets to aspire to? Do they set out

clear objectives that parents, educators and everyone else who cares about children agree are important? Finally, can we achieve them? The answer to all of these questions is yes. They really are *America's* Goals in every sense of the word."

Michigan Governor John Engler, a past NEGP chair and co-chair of a recent task force on the future of the Goals, was equally supportive. "The Goals are definitely ambitious, but they are also vital to the future of our country. America's children need to be ready to learn, ready to achieve, ready to graduate fully prepared for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead."

Input about the usefulness of the Goals and the Goals Panel was obtained from a variety of sectors during 1998, including state Business-Education Coalitions, Commissioners of the Education Commission of the States (ECS), education and child-advocacy organizations and the general public. The Panel also sought advice from national experts on key educational issues, who cited the Goals and the Panel for significant contributions in the following areas:

1. Launching and supporting the academic standards movement.
2. Legitimizing benchmarking, and state and international comparisons.
3. Increasing attention to early childhood in the education reform agenda.
4. Focusing and sustaining education reform.
5. Making additional contributions in goal-specific areas.

"President Clinton and Secretary Riley strongly support the Goals and the Panel's decision," said Mike Cohen, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Education and former White House Domestic Policy Advisor. "These goals define excellence in education, and we look forward to continuing the Administration's work to ensure that the federal government is a supportive partner in local and state efforts to achieve excellence in education."

"As Governor of a state where we're doing everything to make quality education available, affordable and accessible at every level, it's important to us to have an accurate view of how our students are doing," said Kentucky Governor Patton. "I want to continue and strengthen our role as a resource on what's really working to help students and schools improve. It's not just about how we're doing. It's also about the practices and initiatives that can help states and local communities all across the nation do better."

The Panel is a bipartisan body of federal and state officials created in July 1990 to assess state and national progress toward achieving the National

Education Goals. Under current legislation, the Panel is charged with a variety of responsibilities to support system-wide reform, including:

- Reporting on national and state progress toward the Goals over a 10-year period;
- Working to establish a system of academic standards and assessments;
- Identifying promising and effective reform strategies;
- Recommending actions for federal, state and local governments to take; and
- Building a nationwide, bipartisan consensus to achieve the Goals.

Panel members include eight governors, four members of Congress, four state legislators, the U.S. Secretary of Education, and a representative of The White House.

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